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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 DPW-01 AID-20 RSR-01 EUR-25 (ADP) W
---------- 092444
P R 030225 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1086
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 7685

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON 2 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE:
NHA TRANG 0458
E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, MAY 2

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTION GENERALLY LIGHT, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ONE ENGAGEMENT COSTLY TO ENEMY IN BINH DINH. ICCS MANAGED ONLY TO ROTATE THE INDODEL AT DUC CO; COULD NOT EXTRACT TEAM. RELEASE OF CIVILIAN DETAINEES STILL PENDING IN THREE PROVINCES.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MR 2 WAS UNUSUALLY QUIET MAY 1, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE NHA TRANG REGIONAL BRIEFING, WITH TOTAL OF ONLY SIX ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS REPORTED. FIVE OCCURRED IN NORTHERN BINH DINH AND REMAINING ONE TOOK PLACE IN TUY AN DISTRICT, PHU YEN. CASUALTIES: VC: TWENTY- ONE KIA, TWO B41 ROCKETS, 6 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS AND FIFTY- TWO GRENADES CAPTURED; RVNAF: ONE KIA, SIX WIA. MOST OF THE VC LOSSES CAME IN NOON ATTACK MAY 1 ON ARVN COMPANY OUTPOST SITUATED ABOUT FIVE KMS SOUTH OF HOAI NHON DISTRICT CAPITAL AND SAME DISTANCE NORTH OF PHU CU PASS. FIFTEEN ENEMY WERE KILLED IN ENGAGEMENT.

3. HOWEVER, KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT ARVN TROOPS IN KONTUM
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REOCCUPIED MOST OF AN AREA NORTHWEST OF KONTUM CITY (APPARENTLY DAK ROCO T, SCENE OF CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY SINCE APRIL 18), TAKING NINE WIA IN THE PROCESS. BAO LOC POLOFF REPORTS THAT TWO MS PRECONDITION
FOR TALKS WITH PRES BHUTTO. SHE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT PAKISTANI RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WOULD FOLLOW AUTOMATICALLY IF THE ISSUES CONFRONTING THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE SETTLED. REPLYING TO PRESS QUESTION, MRS GANDHI OBSERVED THAT SHE WAS NOT " SHYING AWAY" FROM SUMMIT CONFERENCE WITH BHUTTO BUT THAT NO RUIAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN MADE SO FAR.

(B) US RELATIONS WITH PRC AND INDIA: IN RESPONSE TO SUCCESSIVE QUESTIONS, MRS GANDHI SAID GOI WELCOMED THAW IN SINO- US RELATIONS. " I THINK PRES NIXON TOOK A COURAGEOUS AND TIMELY INITIATIVE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CHINA". INDIA' S RELATIIONS WITH US WERE DESCRIBED AS " QUITE FAIR". MRS GANHDI ADDED THAT INDIA HAD " NO REAL PROBLEM WITH UNITED STATES, ONLY A MIS-UNDERSTANDING" OVER BANGLADESH, WHICH NOW CLEARED UP. INDIA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WARMEST AND FRIENDLIEST OF RELATIONS WITH US AS WITH ALL OTHER COUNTRIES, SHE SAID.

(C) SINO- INDIAN RELATIONS: " THEY WERE NOT IN TALING TERMS WITH US. BUT NOW THEY ARE ON TALKING TERMS WITH US AND COME TO OUR RECEPTIONS". (PRC AMB JOINED REST OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT AIRPORT CEREMONIES AND AT OFFICIAL RECEPTIONS.)

(D) INDOCHINA: SITUATION IN INDOCHINA ATTRACTED BRIEF MENTION IN SEVERAL OF MRS GANHDI' S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. SHE NOTED " VALOR OF PEOPLE" OF INDOCHINA " IN DEFENSE OF THEIR RES-SPECTIVE NATIONAL IDENTIES" AT STATE BANQUET APRIL 27 AND TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT WAR IN INDOCHINA WOULD END " ONLY IF CAMBODIAN ISSUE ALSO IS SETTLEDJZM APRIL 29 COMMUNIQUE URGED IMPLEMENTATION OF JAN 27 AND FEB 21 PARIS AGREEMENTS AND
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NOTED " MANY PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED" TO ACHIEVE ENDURING PEACE.

8. COMMENT: PM BANDARANAIKE TOLD DCM APRIL 30 THAT SHE WAS " PLEASED" WITH VISIT AND THAT MRS GANDHI WAS ALSO. AMONG CEYLONESE PUBLIC, ACTION SRI LANKA' S COMPLAINTS, PARTICULARLY REPATIRAION QUESTION WHICH IS WIDELY VIEWED AS REAL TEST OF INDIAN INTENTIONS, WILL GIVE BOOST TO MRS B' S SAGGING RECORD AT HOME. ON BROAD RANGE OF REGIONAL AND STRATEGIC ISSUES, INDIAN STANCE WAS POSITIVE AND REASSURING TO SRI LANKA, MRS GANDHI DISPLAYING UNDERSTANDING AND SENSITIVITY TOWARD PERENNIAL GSL TREPIDATIONS CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE IN SHADOW OF GIAN NEIGHBOR. FINALLY, VERY FACT OF VISIT WAS DOUBTLESS FLATTERING TO PM' S SELF- IMAGE AS INTERNATIONAL FIGURE AND SERVES ALSO AS USEFUL BALANCE TO DISPLAY OF SINO- CEYSLONESE TIES LATER THIS MONTH AT OPENING OF PRC FINANCED AND CONSTRUCTED

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BANDARANAKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL.
VAN HOLLEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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